Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for facilitating message delivery and conferencing within a communications system having multiple communications channels using multiple media types, the method comprising:

registering with the communications system a plurality of reception states established by a receiving party, wherein each of said reception states specifies reception state data, said reception state data comprising a plurality of rules for establishing a communications link with one or more receiving party addresses, wherein said rules define one or more categories of messages based on a nature of each message, a time at which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, a communication channel through which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, and a receiving party address associated with said communication channel at which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, wherein for at least one of said reception states said defined communication channel is different from a communication channel associated with a first communications link initiated by a sending party, and wherein the nature of each message is determined taking into consideration criteria including a purpose of the message and an identity of the sending party;

initiating [[a]] the first communications link by a sending party;

identifying a receiving party address from the first initiated communications link;

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retrieving reception state data specified by said plurality of reception states according to said receiving party address;

classifying said first initiated communications link into one of said categories;

presenting said portion of said reception state data associated with said one of said categories to the sending party via the communication channel associated with the first initiated communications link, wherein said reception state data is presented in a form compatible with a device of the sending party making the first initiated communications link, wherein said reception state data is presented according to a context of the communication;

interpreting the received reception state data by the sending party;

instructing the communications system how to process said first initiated communications link by the sending party; and

processing said first initiated communications link based on the instructions from the sending party.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a sending party address and determining contextually relevant reception state data according to said identified sending party address and said receiving party address.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein said determining step further comprises:

determining contextually relevant reception state data according to the time of said first initiated communications link and the communications channel over which said first initiated communications link is to be established.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

completing said first communications link.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

terminating said first initiated communications link.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, further comprising:

according to said response, initiating a second communications link to a different receiving party address using the same communications channel as said first initiated communication link.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, further comprising:

according to said response, initiating a second communications link using a communications channel different from the communications channel of said first initiated communications link.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting at least one additional initiated communications link from subsequent sending parties; and

presenting said reception state data to selected ones of said subsequent sending parties.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

initiating at least one additional communications link from said receiving party or said sending party to a third party; and

presenting reception state data associated with said third party to at least one of said sending party or said receiving party.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform a method for facilitating message delivery and conferencing within a communications system having multiple communications channels using multiple media types, the method comprising the steps of:

registering with a communications system a plurality of reception states established by a receiving party, wherein each of said reception states specifies reception state data, said reception state data comprising a plurality of rules for establishing a communications link with one or more receiving party addresses, wherein said rules define one or more categories of messages based on a nature of each message, a time at which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, a communication channel through which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, and a receiving party address associated with said communication channel at which the receiving party prefers to receive delivery of said messages in each of said categories, wherein for at least one of said reception states said defined communication channel is different from a communication channel associated with a first communications link initiated by a sending party, and wherein the nature of each message is determined taking into consideration criteria including a purpose of the message and an identity of the sending party;

initiating [[a]] the first communications link by a sending party;

identifying a receiving party address from the first initiated communications link;

retrieving reception state data specified by said plurality of reception states according to said receiving party address;

classifying said first initiated communications link into one of said categories;

presenting said portion of said reception state data associated with said one of said categories to the sending party via the communication channel associated with the first initiated communications link, wherein said reception state data is presented in a form compatible with a device of the sending party making the first initiated communications link, wherein said reception state data is presented according to a context of the communication;

interpreting the received reception state data by the sending party;

instructing the communications system how to process said first initiated communications link by the sending party; and

processing said first initiated communications link based on the instructions from the sending party.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:
identifying a sending party address and determining contextually relevant reception state data according to said identified sending party address and said receiving party address.

14.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 13, wherein said determining step further comprises:
determining contextually relevant reception state data according to the time of said first initiated communications link and the communications channel over which said first initiated communications link is to be established.

15.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:

completing said first communications link.

16.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:
terminating said first initiated communications link.

17.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising:
according to said response, initiating a second communications link to a different receiving party address using the same communications channel as said first initiated communication link.

18.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 16, further comprising:
according to said response, initiating a second communications link using a communications channel different from the communications channel of said first initiated communications link.

19.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:
detecting at least one additional initiated communications link from subsequent sending parties; and
presenting said reception state data to selected ones of said subsequent sending parties.

20.   (Cancelled)   The machine-readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:
initiating at least one additional communications link from said receiving party or said sending party to a third party; and
presenting reception state data associated with said third party to at least one of said sending party or said receiving party.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

gathering the reception state data from a receiving device using an agent.

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